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'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY PAYS SECRET VISIT TO ROMANIA

NC112036Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 11 April--Informed diplomatic sources in Kuwait have stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has recently paid a secret visit to Bucharest, where he met for several hours with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. These sources add that 'Arafat later returned to Beirut.

Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser of the PLO chairman, has met in Bucharest with Romanian officials over the past few days.

These Palestinian-Romanian contacts are part of the consultations between the two sides on the eve of the visit of Romanian President Ceausescu to the United States. The visit will begin today and will last 4 days.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE MEETING

JN111637Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Amar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, last night presided over a meeting attended by representatives of the Palestinian revolution factions and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The meeting lasted 3 hours.

The meeting began with a comprehensive review presented by brother Abu 'Ammar of his visit to Syria, his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and the meeting of the Palestinian Coordination Committee. During the meeting the political and security situation in Lebanon was also discussed. The Lebanese nationalist movement put forth the steps which should be taken to put an end to the attempts being made by some quarters to harm the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the cause of the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

Regarding the field of security, a study was made to reports on the shooting incidents in the areas of Ash-Shiyah and Al-Burj Square. It was agreed to exercise self-restraint and make contact with the headquarters of the Arab deterrent forces in order to check the elements that opened fire on the peaceful inhabitants of the Ash-Shiyah area.

PLO DENIES IT INTENDS TO ATTEND SUMMIT CONFERENCE

JN101604Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: News agencies have cited today's issue of the Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH as saying that the PLO has agreed to attend the Arab summit conference. We wish to affirm that what the above-mentioned paper has published is not based on any official information issued by the PLO.

PLO REAFFIRMS UNITY WITH STEADFASTNESS FRONT

LD092318Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Within the framework of the policy of consultation and coordination among members of the steadfastness and confrontation front, the Syrian and Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah ambassadors, the PDRY charge d'affaires and the PLO Algiers representative were received at the Foreign Ministry last Thursday.

Viewpoints were exchanged on Palestinian developments and the Middle East crisis following the initiative of the Government of sister-Sudan after the meeting held in Cairo by some Arab countries.

It was learned from a reliable source that the PLO has officially made its reply to this issue, and has defined the stand of the Palestinian leadership, represented in the person of brother Yasir 'Arafat, as follows:

The PLO is fully committed to the resolutions of the two conferences of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers and the conference of the defense and foreign ministers of the front in Damascus.

Proceeding from our commitment and the commitment of the members of the steadfastness front to the resolutions of their conferences, the PLO defines its viewpoint in accordance with the resolutions of the steadfastness and confrontation front.

The PLO emphasizes that it does not act on its own, but through the steadfastness and confrontation front, so that the opinion is unanimous on all issues. Regarding the statements attributed to Mr Sa'id Kamal in Cairo, the Palestinian leadership stressed that it did not entrust him with the task of attending any meeting in Cairo or making any statements in the name of PLO. It has also instructed all PLO offices that the actions of the PLO representatives and those working for it be bound by the resolutions of the steadfastness and confrontation front.

A PLO statement has been issued denying those statements. Contrary to reports by some Arab news agencies and world news agencies, Algeria has stressed that it strongly adheres to the statements and resolutions of the Algiers and Tripoli conferences of the steadfastness and confrontation front and the resolutions of the Damascus conference of the ministers of defense and foreign affairs. It is noted here that Algeria's stand fully conforms with that of the PLO in this respect.

RIYAD MAKES STATEMENT ON HIS ARAB TOUR

NC111956Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad stated after his return to Cairo today that he held consultations with the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain on the developments of the Arab situation, ways to strengthen Arab solidarity and preparations for an Arab summit conference to tackle the requirements of the present stage, particularly following Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon and its refusal to carry out the resolutions of the international community.

Riyad added that he will pay a visit to Sudan to brief President Ja'far Numayri on the results of the contacts he held and to discuss the work of the Arab solidarity committee, which was formed at the recommendation of the Arab foreign ministers in order to prepare the atmosphere for convening an Arab summit conference.

PALESTINIAN REJECTION FRONT OPPOSES CEASE-FIRE

JN1010046Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 April--The front of the Palestinian forces rejecting the capitulatory solutions has stressed that there is nothing left for the Palestinian revolution but to fight. The front warned that agreeing to a cease-fire with the Zionist enemy will mean the end of the justifications for the existence of this revolution. The front said in a statement released today that the cease-fire decision only binds those forces which seek capitulation.

The front added: A part of the Lebanese soil is now under occupation. This occupation must be removed through fighting. Diplomacy and UN resolutions are only an attempt to legalize the status quo in the newly occupied territory, just as it has happened in the previously occupied territories.

Defining the front's attitude to the UN forces, the statement says: These forces have come to supervise the enemy's withdrawal. We only understand the UN forces' mission in this context. We will not permit anyone to restrict our freedom to fight the enemy. We will also not allow the UN forces to become a deterrent suppressive force as some people want them to be. The statement also defines the front's position on its dealing with the Lebanese Army and Government. It says: We understand that the aim of the existence of the Lebanese Army in the south is to defend the Lebanese border against Zionist aggression and to maintain security. This does not mean preventing our revolution from fighting its enemy.

In conclusion, the statement warns that the calls for Arab solidarity are only aimed at covering up the capitulation conspiracy. The alternative to these calls is the unity of the Arab progressive and nationalist forces to continue the confrontation against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

PLO SAID TO BE CONSIDERING DIALOG WITH JORDAN

JN091010Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 April--The PLO is seriously considering the possibility of responding to the Jordanian call to resume the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. This was reported in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS in a dispatch from Beirut. The paper says that following the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the PLO has changed its stand regarding the Jordanian call and that the dialog will be resumed soon.

The newspaper cites a responsible Palestinian source as saying that some Palestinian officials in Syria have actually begun contacts with the Jordanian Government in this respect.

It is worth noting that the Jordanian call was addressed to Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, 2 months ago to hold a dialog with Jordan aimed at restoring solidarity between the two sides.

PALESTINIANS ACCUSE JORDAN OF HARASSING SUPPLY CONVOY

JN091823Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1610 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A convoy of aid donated by the masses of our Palestinian people in the UAE in support of the Palestinian revolution was the target of an oppressive campaign of harassment by the Royal Jordanian intelligence organs at the border post where the convoy passed into Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia. The intelligence organs seized the convoy and held those accompanying it. These people were left in the open the entire night after they had been subjected to an oppressive interrogation campaign and a flood of insults and curses.

The next morning the convoy was allowed to move but was stopped again in the Ar-Ramtha region where Jordanian intelligence agents arrested two of those accompanying the convoy: Fu'ad an-Najjar and Faysal [name indistinct]. The former was released after being interrogated, but the latter, who is the convoy guide, is still under detention, interrogation and oppression. These arbitrary measures by the Jordanian regime confirm the hostility this regime harbors against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people.

ARAB OFFICIAL ASSAILS U.S. LAW AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT

JN101312Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Muhammad Mahjub, the commissioner general of the Arab Offices for the Boycott of Israel, has declared that the U.S. law concerning the Arab boycott of Israel will not affect the work of the boycott offices.

Mahjub said that the boycott offices only abide by their own regulations, which enjoy the approval of all the Arab states.

Recently,he said, the boycott offices adopted a number of decisions banning dealings with American and other companies in line with the boycott objectives and regulations.

During the past 10 years, Mahjub said, the boycott offices have succeeded in persuading 2,675 companies and firms of different nationalities to stop their activities in Israel.

JALLUD SPEECH OPENS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

LD092156Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD

[Speech by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, at the opening of the world conference on international development in Tripoli--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. It is a great honor for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to host this international conference. It pleases me to welcome our guests. This international conference is an example of distances between men not stopping them from meeting to assert that the fate of mankind is one fate and that mankind can either be happy together or miserable together. By this meeting of yours, brothers, you are stressing that in order to confront mankind's problems there must be a joint effort.

In this international conference, organized by the Jamahiriyah in cooperation with the World Peace Council, our people show without any doubt that they are a people who have sacrificed nearly 750,000 martyrs for peace and freedom. Our people played a decisive role in putting an end to fascism, which sought the ruination of mankind. Our people, after the Great 1 September Revolution, took upon themselves the task of--in addition to that of changing the Libyan reality--playing a prominent role and are shouldering their responsibility toward mankind with all sincerity and courage.

It is the forces of evil in the world, the colonialist forces, which view things through dark glasses. The antifreedom and antipeace forces are making some false accusations against our small people, who are trying to develop themselves and participate in the happiness of mankind. These people, who are struggling at home for their own happiness and with mankind for the happiness and prosperity of all mankind--the colonialist forces try to accuse these people of being people who support terrorism and who create problems for mankind. The holding of this conference here is proof that these people are among the good peoples who devote all their efforts for the good of mankind.

You were right, brothers, to link peace and development. Here I should like to stress that there can be no peace without just and equal development, and no development without a peace based on right and freedom.

The capitalist colonialist countries and the monopolies are not satisfied with plundering the resources of the peoples and with the exploitation of their energies. They continue to create fresh difficulties--in addition to those already being experienced by the peoples of the Third World--to stop these peoples from even thinking of building up their economies and achieving social freedom. While there have been attempts to achieve political freedom by way of revolution and by way of the armed struggle by peoples of the Third World, we have not seen any attempts by these same peoples to stand up to economic domination and to the economic system built on the exploitation of the poor by the rich, the system which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. An exception to this was the attempt by the oil-producing countries, the attempt led by the Great 1 September Revolution.

Perhaps now we know the reason for the capitalist and colonialist campaign against the Jamahiriyah. The Jamahiriyah dealt a severe blow to the system of monopolies.

Our battle, brothers, is that of the poor, the battle of the overwhelming majority for the realization of economic freedom and for changing the unjust relations in the world economic system and finding a new economic system which will allow the peoples of the Third World to rebuild their economies. Unless the peoples of the Third World have a clear struggle plan to control their resources and invest them in the interest of their peoples and unless they deal severe blows to the capitalist system and the monopolies, the aspirations of these peoples will not come true.

Given the choice, the peoples of the Third World will choose the socialist system. This is because the socialist system is the system which allows the mobilization of resources and their investment from the production aspect in the interest of all the people. Attempts to rectify the economic system must come from the peoples of the Third World in cooperation with all democratic forces and with the socialist community.

Brothers, who among us does not seek peace? Peace creates a suitable climate for every people to develop themselves and consequently to [word indistinct]. But real peace is still remote unless the advanced countries, the capitalist countries and the world monopolies accept that there are new economic facts now being imposed in line with the political facts that were imposed themselves after World War II. We peoples of the Third World need peace badly--but peace based on right and justice not peace imposed by force which makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. I say that if the advanced and capitalist countries thought about this rationally, they would come to the conclusion that they have exhausted their resources in their own countries and will exhaust the resources of the Third World even more rapidly. Consequently, the capitalist system will be exposed, since the outside resources on which it depends in concealing its faults will come to an end and then there will be [words indistinct]. The new economic system, even if temporarily harmful, is, when viewed in the long run, in the interest of all including the capitalist and the advanced countries.

This conference, brothers, actually expresses a sincere (?desire) for development and world peace. But the other conferences called for by Carter or [word indistinct] or Schmidt are conferences in name only; they study how to tighten the noose round the neck of the Third World peoples.

ARAB OIL WORKERS CONFERENCE ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS

LD111512Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Fourth General Conference of Arab Oil, Mineral and Chemical Workers, which concluded its work in Tripoli yesterday, adopted a number of resolutions and recommendations on the current Arab situation and the activity of the federation hitherto. It also adopted resolutions on supporting the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese progressive forces.

The conference affirmed its firm and principled stand toward strengthening the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO and the Lebanese progressive forces. The conference voiced support for the front of steadfastness and confrontation and for the resolutions adopted during the front's conferences, and it called on all revolutionary regimes in the Arab homeland to join this front to strengthen the steadfastness against imperialist and Zionist challenges.

The conference saluted with esteem all the workers inside the occupied territory for their courageous stand against the Zionist enemy and for their adherence to the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The conference praised the great and historic role played by President Ja'far Numayri, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Seyni Kountche and President Malloum in the national reconciliation in Chad.

The conference indicted the Egyptian president's visit of shame and dishonor to the occupied territory. The conference recommended that the headquarters of the Secretariat General be removed from the Egyptian capital to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The conference denounced the participation of the French and Iranian forces in the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon because they are a party to combating the nationalist trend and the liberation movements in the Arab homeland and particularly the Palestinian revolution.

The conference called for investing oil revenues in development projects within the Arab homeland instead of depositing these revenues in Western banks or investing them in foreign property.

Sends Telegram to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD072338Y Tripoli JANA in English 1515 GMT 7 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 7, JANA--Following is the full text of the telegram to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, from the Fourth Congress of Oil Mining and Chemicals Workers:

The Fourth Congress of the Arab Union of Oil, Mining and Chemicals Workers, which is being held on the land of Al Fatah, is glad to give you and your brothers, the sons of the glorious revolution, the sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the evacuation of the foreign bases from the land of Arabism. We do not wish to miss the opportunity to thank you on your personal efforts in dealing with Arab and African affairs in a revolutionary constructive spirit and in support of the causes of the Arab nation and Africa. Your continuous efforts for national reconciliation in Chad is a decisive proof of your responsible attitude.

We give you our pledge to work for the fulfillment of the wishes of our Arab nation.

KUWAIT

YEMENI PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD101132Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, arrived in Kuwait this morning at the head of a delegation for a 2-day visit.

In a statement he made on arrival, he said the visit would provide him with an opportunity to exchange views with officials in a country which has special links with his own. He said Kuwait was at the head of those countries who stood by the Yemeni people in difficult circumstances. It contributed a great deal toward the fight against ignorance and disease. The object of his visit, he said, was to discuss bilateral relations and national problems. He added that he will deliver a letter to the amir from Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council.

Received by Amir

LD111650Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The amir of Kuwait received YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his delegation this morning. The prime minister delivered a written message from Ahmad al-Ghashmi, chairman of the YAR Command Council. The message is connected with relations between the two countries, current developments in the Arab world, and problems of common concern.

Leaves 12 April

JN120944Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 12 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, left Kuwait this morning for Doha at the end of a 2-day official visit to Kuwait. He was seen off by Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, and several senior Kuwaiti officials.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

NC112155Y Doha QNA in Arabic 2130 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 11 April--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad has stated that his country welcomes its accession to the Arab solidarity committee chaired by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

In a statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that the level of representation at this committee has been left to President Numayri, who has expressed the desire that the committee meet at the foreign ministers level in Khartoum on 11 April [date as received].

Sabah al-Ahmad further said that Kuwait does not object to attending this meeting if all other Arab states which have been asked to participate in the committee approve it.

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE COMES INTO EFFECT

LD091046Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The law introducing compulsory military service has come into effect. From 15 April 1978 the first group of young men subject to the new law will be called up to complete their papers. Young men born between 18 March 1960 and 15 April 1960 will be called up.

AL-QABAS ON U.S. SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL

JN100833Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0717 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 10 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today reports that the U.S. administration is currently studying a plan aimed at more security guarantees for the Zionist entity. The paper says that the administration agreed with enemy Prime Minister Menahim Begin during his last visit to Washington on the establishment of U.S. naval and air bases in Sinai and other occupied Arab territories for this purpose.

AL-QABAS says that the United States believes that the establishment of a naval base in Haifa and an air base at Ezion, near Elat, will strengthen the U.S. position for protecting oil supply lines.

AS-SIYASAH ON ISRAELI PLAN TO OCCUPY JORDAN

JN081020Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 8 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan has informed a number of Arab and non-Arab countries about a new Israeli plan to occupy the northern area of Jordan and the Salt Heights.

Quoting well-informed political sources in Amman, the paper said the goal of this plan is to encircle Syria from the west and south, to seize the triangle connecting Syria, Jordan and Iraq, and to prepare the atmosphere for a substitute homeland for the Palestinians either by transferring them from Lebanon to Jordan or by ousting the Jordanian regime by a military operation and handing Jordan over to Jordanian-Palestinian commandos.

These sources added that the Jordanian monarch has sent messages containing this information to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. The sources pointed out that King Husayn's recent visit to Iran and the visit of the Jordanian prime minister to the Libyan Jamahiriyah were aimed at asking for military aid and requesting that a political and oil position in support of Jordan in this respect be adopted.

AS-SIYASAH ON GULF INFORMATION COORDINATION

LD071250Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Apr 78 p 7 LD

[Text] Bahrain--By Mahbub al-'Abdallah--The occasion of the formal inauguration of the GULF NEWS AGENCY presented a new opportunity for the information ministers of the Arab Gulf states participating in the agency to meet a second time since their meeting at the third conference in Baghdad in mid-February. These ministers were:

Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qaim Hammudi, Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, Qatari Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, Bahrain Information Minister and Chairman of the GULF NEWS AGENCY Management Board Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, UAE Information and Culture Minister Ahmad ibn Hamid, and Information Under Secretary Sa'dun Muhammad al-Jasim.

During the past 2 days, following the inauguration ceremony, the ministers held bilateral and group meetings to exchange views and to discuss what they decided upon 2 months ago. The stressed the need to follow up the implementation of other information projects decided upon between the area states, such as the information coordination center, the gulf television network, and the petroleum information center, according to a Bahraini information source to AS-SIYASAH.

Qatari Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari spoke to AS-SIYASAH on what the gulf agency is expected to carry out in addition to the functions of the respective national news agencies that most of the gulf countries operate.

He said the gulf agency is quite important in that it will coordinate the exchange of information not only among the gulf states but also with the outside world. The agency will also seek to correct the wrong impression about the developing countries, and particularly the gulf states, so as to remove the distorted view held in the industrial states about these countries. The industrial states always accuse these countries of being the cause of world economic recession and inflation in the West and that the oil countries in particular are the cause of all the economic difficulties in the West.

Therefore, this agency will seek to portray a true, balanced, and unexaggerated image of the oil countries and of what is going on in this area, which is of great strategic importance and witnessing vast development and growth in the various fields.

He added: As for us--in the QATAR NEWS AGENCY--we have given every support to the GULF NEWS AGENCY and we will continue to give such support to this mother agency. We hope it will grow, develop, and gain international confidence so as to achieve the stature of any international news agency and will play its role in countering the mad campaign against the gulf oil states in particular and the Third World countries in general and in refuting all the allegations, rumors and distortions of the Western press media.

QATAR

YAR PREMIER AL-GHANI ARRIVES ON 2-DAY VISIT

JN121010Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0940 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 12 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, arrived in Doha before noon today coming from Kuwait on a 2-day official visit to Qatar. He was received upon arrival by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, and senior Qatari officials.

The visit of the YAR prime minister to Qatar is part of his tour of countries in the area to explain the viewpoint of his country on the issue of the proposed Arab summit conference aimed at healing the rift among Arab countries.

Received by Amir

JN121011Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 12 April--Shaykh Khalifan ibn Hamad al-Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, before noon today met with 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic. 'Abd al-Ghani delivered a written message to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani from the chairman of the YAR Command Council, Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

The discussions during the meeting revolved around the existing fraternal relations between the two countries, ways to strengthen them in all spheres and the current situation in the Arab arena.

Official talks between the YAR and Qatari sides are expected to begin this evening.

SAUDI OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN111414Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 11 April--Dr Ibrahim al-'Awaji, Saudi Interior Ministry under secretary, left here this morning to return to Riyadh following a 4-day official visit to the State of Qatar. During his visit the Saudi official held talks with the Qatari officials on ways of achieving more cooperation and integration between the two countries in the field of security and police.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Dr al-'Awaji said that his visit to the State of Qatar had enabled him to become acquainted with the phases of prosperity Qatar is witnessing in all spheres under the leadership of its amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani. He described his talks with the Qatari officials as successful and said these talks had achieved their aims. He added that during his talks with the Qatari minister of interior, discussions were translated into tangible reality felt in all security and police organs for the welfare of the two peoples.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTER ON WEAPONS POLICY, TALKS IN IRAN

JN111205Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0854 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 11 April--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of defense and aviation, has affirmed that the military policy of the kingdom is to diversify the sources of weapons by obtaining them from all friendly states and that the kingdom imports these weapons in accordance with its needs and its capacity to absorb them.

Prince Sultan added in a statement published in the newspaper AR-RIYAD here today that his talks with officials in Iran will cover the relations between the two countries and matters concerning the present and future of the country.

Prince Sultan referred to the ties of Islamic brotherhood, firm friendship and common destiny between the kingdom and all brothers, and said: We are holding consultations on matters concerning us and the region.

It is noteworthy that Prince Sultan arrived in Teheran yesterday and began talks with Iranian War Minister Gen Reza Azimi. The talks dealt with mutual cooperation between the two countries in particular and the situation in the region in general. The Saudi and Iranian sides also reviewed the existing relations between the two countries.

TOGOLESE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOLLOWING 2-DAY VISIT

JN111208Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 April--His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo, left Riyadh this morning at the end of his 2-day visit to the kingdom, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister.

Joint Statement Issued

JN111515Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text of the joint statement issued today at the conclusion of the Togolese president's visit to Saudi Arabia]

[Text] Riyadh, 11 April--In response to the invitation extended by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadema, founder and leader of the rally of the Togolese people and president of the Republic of Togo, paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 9 to 11 April 1978.

The Saudi people accorded the Togolese president and the accompanying delegation a cordial welcome which reflects the love and appreciation expressed by the Saudi people to the great Togolese leader for his stand on the side of the Arab causes on all levels. President Eyadema and His Majesty King Khalid held talks in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and frankness and exchanged viewpoints on various issues, particularly Arab-African relations, current events in Africa and relations between the two countries.

The two heads of state expressed their desire to strengthen and develop the ties of friendship between the two countries and to promote cooperation between them in the economic and cultural fields. They agreed to exchange visits among officials from all levels in both countries in order to achieve this cooperation.

In the field of Arab-African cooperation, the two heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the progress and development of relations between the Arab and the African countries and with the success achieved by the conferences of Arab-African cooperation toward strengthening understanding between the Arab and the African countries.

The two heads of state discussed the Middle East issue and condemned the use of armed aggression to annex territory by force. They stressed the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

The two heads of state emphasized their resolve and determination to assist the African regions which are still under the imperialist and racist yoke and to support them in their just struggle to achieve independence and basic rights. They expressed dissatisfaction with the presence of foreign armed forces in Africa and stressed the need for the withdrawal of these forces from the African Continent.

His Excellency President Eyadema thanked His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Saudi people for the warm and cordial welcome accorded him and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the kingdom. His excellency extended an invitation to His Majesty King Khalid to visit Togo. His Majesty gratefully accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON SAUDI-SUDANESE MEETING

LD111728Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] This morning His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, returned to Riyadh from Khartoum where he headed the Saudi side to the meetings of the ministerial Saudi-Sudanese coordination and followup committee, which concluded its work yesterday in Khartoum. During his 3-day visit, his highness had a meeting with Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

The members of the Saudi delegation to the committee, which include His Excellency Muhammad al-Milham, minister of state and cabinet member, and Shaykh 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Ali Ridha, Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic and cultural affairs, also returned with his royal highness.

A press statement on the second meeting of the Saudi-Sudanese coordination and followup committee said that before the meetings on Saturday His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had a meeting with His Excellency President Ja'far Numayri, who had shown great interest in the important role the committee is playing in giving impetus to the march of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries. The statement also said that President Ja'far Numayri and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal reviewed pressing fateful issues confronting the Arab and Islamic nations. They concentrated on the need to undertake constructive action to surmount all dangers to the people and states of the Arab and Islamic nations, without exception.

The press statement stated that the committee discussed various aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two countries. It also reviewed with satisfaction and pleasure all that had been accomplished since its first meeting. It expressed the desire to strengthen and expand cooperation between the two fraternal countries for the sake of safeguarding their common interests and for the sake of realizing the aims of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The statement also explained that the committee reviewed the serious and significant developments in the world, and foremost the Middle East question. The views of the two countries are in accord on the value and the need for Arab solidarity and unified Arab action.

In the statement Saudi Arabia affirms its support for the efforts of His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri in the field of unifying the Arabs and bringing them together again. The kingdom expressed thanks to his excellency for taking on himself this historic task, and it wished him success and good fortune for the glory and benefit of the sons of the area.

The statement also affirmed the agreement of the two sides on the issue of the Horn of Africa. In this connection the kingdom, with appreciation and pride, praised the efforts of His Excellency President Numayri in clearing the air and restoring cooperation and accord among all the sons and nations of the Horn of Africa in order to guarantee their dignity and provide them with stability, cooperation for building their future and in order to raise their living standards and develop their countries.

The committee decided to hold its third meeting in Riyadh at a date to be agreed upon by the two sides later.

KHALID RECEIVES KUWAITI JUSTICE MINISTER

JN111211Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0956 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 11 April--At 1100 today His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in the royal court at the Al-Ma'dhar Palace His Excellency 'Abdallah Ibrahim al-Mufarraj, the Kuwaiti minister of justice, who is currently visiting the kingdom. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd, the crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, the personal adviser to his majesty the king; and Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al ash-Shaykh, the minister of justice.

TALKS HELD WITH MALAYSIAN EDUCATION MINISTER

JN101857Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 10 April--Talks began here today between Shaykh Hasan ibn 'Abdallah Al ash-Shaykh, Saudi minister of higher education and supreme president of the universities, and Datuk Musa bin Hatim, Malaysian minister of higher education, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

After the first round of talks, Dr Mahmud Safar, Education Ministry under secretary, said that the two sides reviewed the means to develop cultural relations between the two countries and to reactivate their 1976 cultural agreement, the exchange of teachers and the scholarships given by the kingdom to Malaysia.

UAE

MINISTER CALLS FOR REGULATION OF OIL PRODUCTION

JN091023Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 April--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has announced that his country's loss due to the great drop in the value of the dollar amounts to 11 percent of the dollar value. In a statement published in today's Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Dr al-'Utaybah stressed the necessity of regulating oil production at a specific rate of the production of every state with the aim of restoring the balance between supply and demand.

The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources called for marshalling the efforts of the Arab countries in the gulf in particular and the OPEC member states in general to strengthen cooperation between them in the interests of their peoples and the interests of the oil and minerals industry.

Dr al-'Utaybah affirmed that the differences in views among the OPEC member states regarding oil prices due to the drop of the dollar do not mean anything compared with the determination of the countries in the area to safeguard their interests. He said that the adoption of a policy of collective bargaining by the OPEC member states is better than individual bargaining. What concerns us is safeguarding the purchasing power of the dollar from the acute devaluations it is being subjected to.

PLANS TO DEFEND OIL FACILITIES CONSIDERED

JN091143Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 April--UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammad Sultan 'Abdallah has announced that his country and other sister states in the area are currently studying precautionary measures required to protect the sources of oil in the gulf. These countries are drawing up plans to coordinate measures to defend oil facilities, he added.

In a statement published in today's Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Muhammad Sultan explained that there is need for contact among the states in the area to coordinate defensive measures and guarantee security requisites against the threat of occupation of the sources of oil. He affirmed that the subject is still under study and that what is meant by military coordination is self-defense, not attack, because we are a target state expecting invasion at any moment.

AS-SADAT INSPECTS AREAS AROUND NASIR LAKE

NC111944Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today inspected the areas around Nasir Lake. These are arable lands covering an area of 260,000 feddans. At the beginning of his air tour, his excellency inspected an area of 8,000 feddans in the (Dandal) and (Qastal) regions. He then inspected the area east of Nasir Lake, which is characterized by cultural links with Sudan and which still has tribal and family ties with Sudan. His excellency also inspected the area of Al-'Allaqi Valley, which extends a few kilometers east of the mountainous heights which separate this mountainous region and the Red Sea. At the end of the tour, his excellency inspected from the air tourist areas in Abu Sunbul.

President as-Sadat arrived at Abu Sunbul airport at 1230 today. He was accompanied by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and chief of the president's office Hasan Kamil and head of the parliamentary group in Ismailia Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman. He was welcomed on arrival by Agriculture Minister Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, Housing Minister Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi and Aswan Governor Kamal Khayrallah.

SOURCES DENY AGREEMENT REACHED ON SETTLEMENT

NC120700Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 0112 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 April--Official Egyptian sources today denied reports that Egypt and Israel have reached a basic agreement on a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. This denial came in the wake of a wave of activity on the international and Arab fronts designed, as has been stated, to pave the way for an alleged agreement.

It has been stated that a Romanian envoy, who is now on an announced visit to Cairo, has submitted a draft proposal to the Egyptian leadership providing for the resumption of the peace negotiations with Israel on the condition that all parties concerned participate in the negotiations this time. Informed sources say that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the author of this plan, hopes that the acceptance of this formula by Israel and the PLO will lead to their implicit recognition of each other. Ceausescu is now on his way to Washington.

On the other hand, Egypt is at present studying the Jordanian proposals King Husayn submitted in an attempt to reunite the divided Arab ranks in accordance with a plan of action which would not shut the door for peaceful negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis. Informed sources have stated that these Jordanian proposals, which the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, Hasan Ibrahim, delivered to Cairo yesterday, are aimed at strengthening the position of the Arabs through political, military and economic coordination.

In the meantime, Cairo is waiting for the return of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, hoping he will bring with him the new ideas Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat asked for before agreeing to the resumption of the direct Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. The Egyptian president insists on an Israeli commitment to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the right of the Palestinians for self-determination.

CAIRO RADIO SEES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN FORM ONLY

NC111451Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Israel Is Seeking To Implement the Security Council Resolution on Withdrawal From Southern Lebanon in Form Only"]

[Text] The Security Council has decided to postpone holding a wide-scale debate on the situation in southern Lebanon for 48 hours to verify to what extent Israel is abiding by Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for immediate and complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The council will reconvene tomorrow, Wednesday.

The UN secretary general informed the Security Council that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin had informed him of Israel's intention to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon as soon as possible. Reports say that Israel today began a partial withdrawal of its forces from southern Lebanon. These are the facts of the situation on the official level at the present time.

What we want to dwell on and explain is the background of this situation. It is clear that Menahem Begin's government is maneuvering regarding the withdrawal of its forces from southern Lebanon. It is trying to soothe the Security Council by beginning what is called partial withdrawal of its forces from some of the advance positions in the area. This is at a time when Israeli sources are indicating that Israel does not intend to withdraw completely from the area except under conditions which it will make and impose on the Lebanese Government. The most important of these conditions is the evacuation of Palestinian fedayeen from the area. If we add to this the fact that the Israeli forces can, despite the presence of the UN forces, carry out any calculated operations in southern Lebanon under the pretext of the infiltration of Palestinian resistance men into Israel, it becomes evident to us that the situation is more serious than one can imagine.

Israel wants to impose its military mandate over the entire area of southern Lebanon. This is tantamount to occupation of the area. In other words, Israel wants to impose a fait accompli following its recent invasion of southern Lebanon, despite the presence of the UN forces. In such a case the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 would be carried out in form only.

It was necessary for us to draw attention to this point because Israel's recent invasion of southern Lebanon complements the 1967 aggression. Israel launched a real war in the area, using its ground, air and naval forces and the most modern weapons in its arsenal. Therefore, it was not a question of a reprisal for a fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv. It was a question of an Israeli plan that was ready for implementation. The primary object of this plan was to strike at the Palestinian revolution and end the Palestinian issue practically and then impose Israeli hegemony over Lebanon.

This is the reason Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, has angered the Begin government. This resolution, which was issued prior to Menahem Begin's recent visit to Washington, was one of the reasons for the failure of the Carter-Begin talks. For this reason Israel has been trying to circumvent this resolution, making conditions for its withdrawal and trying to involve the commander of the UN forces in conveying these conditions to the Lebanese Government.

We do not know what the Security Council will discuss tomorrow after postponing its debate for 48 hours. However, we hope the council will discuss all these aspects of the situation in southern Lebanon and take precautions against the use of the UN forces for the achievement of Israel's objective--striking at the Palestinian revolution and practically depriving the Palestinian issue of its context. There is nothing else we can add, other than wait and see what the developments will bring.

AL-AHRAM CONDEMNS ISRAELI USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS

LD111930Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Apr 78 pp 1, 8 LD

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im article]

[Text] The cluster bomb is considered a deadly conventional weapon because of its widespread effect on population centers. It is called this because it consists of a "container" containing a number of "balls" which in turn contain a number of small "pellets" that spread out over a large area so as to hit the largest possible number of individuals. These bombs appeared for the first time in the Vietnam war and later during the war of attrition between Egypt and Israel.

Presidents Johnson and Nixon were generous in providing Israel with sophisticated and primarily offensive weapons. Such weapons included the "smart" bomb, which thinks for itself and accurately seeks out the enemy, television bombs, "Maverick" missiles, laser bombs and antiradar strike missiles. But President Carter, following the U.S.-Egyptian rapprochement in the era of As-Sadat, adopted a historic stand when he refused to supply Israel with "concussion" bombs and "grape" bombs [qanabil 'unqudiyah], both of which are sophisticated offensive weapons of devastating effect on individuals and population centers.

With their actions Johnson and, later, Nixon violated the 1952 agreement between the United States and Israel. One of the articles of this agreement provides that "the Government of Israel assures the U.S. Government that the equipment, material and services Israel obtains from the United States are required and will only be used for preserving internal security in Israel and Israel's legitimate right to self-defense or for allowing it to contribute to the defense of the area of which it is a part or within collective UN security arrangements and measures and that Israel shall not be involved in any act of aggression against any other state."

Presidents Johnson and Nixon violated this provision of the agreement when they allowed Israel to be supplied with such primarily offensive weapons, which we have long struggled and fought against.

But President Carter has so far adopted an honorable stand, which will to a great extent contribute to reaching a peaceful solution for the problem, especially if the United States refrains from supplying Israel with new consignments of such offensive weapons, which were previously agreed upon under previous administrations, especially now that the Americans have seen how their weapons were used in Lebanon.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETS

NC111956Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee met this evening and discussed the current situation in the Middle East. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr Sayyid Nawfal reviewed the results of the recent Arab League Council meeting, which affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity at this decisive stage of the history of the Arab nation and the inevitability of this solidarity in confronting the challenges of Zionism in the present stage, as revealed by the recent aggression against Lebanon and Israel's attempt to avoid withdrawing and to divert world attention from the basic issue. Dr Nawfal also explained the duty of the Arab nation in the present stage, both in working for peace and preparing for all eventualities.

The discussions stressed the committee's concern for Arab solidarity, the need for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The discussions also stressed that President as-Sadat's peace initiative represents a precious opportunity of interest to the whole world, particularly since the world now understands Israel's reality, its aggressive nature and its expansionist intentions.

AL-AHALI CRITICIZES CARTER VISIT TO AFRICA

LD101338Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Apr 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed article: "The 'White Man's' Visit and Colonialism From Within"]

[Excerpts] Nigeria had the great honor of being the first black African state to receive the first U.S. President to visit sub-Saharan Africa. This was Mr Carter's second visit abroad aimed at correcting the U.S. image and restoring it abroad after having restored it at home.

The first tour was in Asia and Europe, and the second was in Latin America and Africa. The world--particularly the Third World--has to be convinced that American society is still a model society despite "Watergate", that the United States is still the world's most powerful state despite Vietnam, that the CIA means well and is intended to protect this society, even though it has sometimes erred, and that the economic crisis is something transient that is bound to go away.

Previously, Nigeria was the base of the British Empire in Africa, just as India was its base in Asia. The United States has inherited this base and added to it Kenya and Zaire so that the three together will be the basis of a U.S. presence and influence in Africa, now that Ethiopia has departed from the U.S. orbit. But Nigeria has the primary position because of its oil reserves. It is a major OPEC member, the fifth ranking state in oil production and the second ranking in importance--after Saudi Arabia--as an oil source for the United States. Therefore, Nigeria must be paid respect and deserves a visit by Carter, as South African Prime Minister Vorster said with enthusiasm.

The "white man" did not go to Nigeria on his first visit with a "comprehensive U.S. program for the liberation of the rest of Africa," or a generous aid program to raise the living standards of the people. All that he carried with him was a declaration of good intentions and theoretical support for black majority rule in South Africa and in the whole of Africa.

This principle was previously declared by Kissinger before leaving office, but it is still a declaration of good intent which lacks translation into action. The other message of the visit--or, rather, the more important aspect of it--was to warn against one particular neocolonialism which the African peoples must, of course, seek protection from in the orbit of the United States.

The world's political and ideological boundaries between the two world powers have been established since the Helsinki conference. These boundaries are protected by inviolable nuclear arsenals. Thus, the Third World continues to be a field of conflict. U.S. national security adviser Brzezinski has drawn up a "new strategy" that calls for creating major regional powers in the Third World that will rotate in the Western orbit. In western Asia, there is Iran on the gulf and at the entrance to the Indian Ocean, Nigeria in West Africa, and Brazil in Latin America. This is an old policy in a new garb, known as "colonialism from within."

In the past century, and up to the middle of the present century, the African peoples experienced all "types" of European colonialism. Since World War II they have come to know the new American "visitor," who enters the continent with a new "crusaders" war against liberation movements and their leaders. These U.S. visitors have not been reluctant about resorting to any means in order to beseige or liquidate these leaders and what they have achieved. First among these were 'Abd an-Nasir, Ben Bella, Nkruma, Lumumba and Sekou Toure. CIA records have shown that there was not a single nationalist government in Africa against which a successful or abortive coup attempt has not been attempted.

U.S. imperialism is shortsighted about understanding "backward" peoples. It has never occurred to it that when such leaders go, the revolution does not die, because a second line of leaders emerge--Neto in Angola, Machel in Mozambique, Cabral in Guinea-Bissau, Mengistu in Ethiopia and Nkomo and Mugabe in Rhodesia. Such leaders carry the revolution a stage further.

These leaders do not need to be enlightened by colonialism and do not intend to liberate their country from one colonialism in order to hand it over to another.

The Cubans and the Russians--if Mr Carter will recall--went to Africa because the United States threw all of its weight behind "fascist" Portuguese colonialism and mobilized the entire NATO alliance--the "shield of democracy"--to maintain the Portuguese empire in Africa. When Angola gained its independence and the nationalist movement assumed power, the forces of South Africa were standing on the borders ready to march in and topple the government. Therefore, Angola had a right to seek the assistance of all forces supporting independence and freedom against this foreign intervention, which was not taking place without U.S. involvement.

Under Haile Selassi, Ethiopia was the base of U.S. and Israeli influence in Africa and a prison for all nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. It was also a major center for plots and sabotage against Arab and African liberation movements. The United States blessed its expansion and unjust annexation of Eritrea and its occupation of the Ogaden. When Haile Selassi and his regime fell and a new regime was set up, the freedom of Ethiopia and Eritrea and, later, the freedom of the Ogaden became the main concern of the United States.

The United States instigated Somalia to "restore its territory" and pitted two neighboring countries against one another. The war ended with a general African disaster. Mr Carter declared in Lagos that he is concerned about the freedom of the Eritrean people and that the Cuban forces are intervening in the battle against these people. Had the United States not interfered in the Horn of Africa and not pushed one African to fight another in Ethiopia, there would have been no Soviets or Cubans, and all of the problems would have probably been settled.

But insuring Iranian oil supplies for Israel and Arab oil supplies for Europe and Japan calls for controlling the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It also calls for preventing the emergence of nationalist or progressive regimes around the oilfields and the shipping routes. Thus, these conflicts were bound to take place and exhausting wars bound to break out in order to insure the numerous interests of the United States.

Perhaps the best thing that Mr Carter could have done for Africa would have been to take his hands off it. Mr Carter, as the American HERALD TRIBUNE said, "was unable to convince or to please anybody in Africa." It failed to say that he will deceive no one.

AS-SADAT SENDS CABLE TO DOYEN OF JOURNALISTS

LD111910Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 78 p 8 LD

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following thank-you telegram to 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal, doyen of journalists and AL-AHRAM chief editor:

I received with gratitude your kind telegram. It conveyed to me your sincere national sentiments. I have the pleasure to send you and to the Egyptian press as a whole sincere thanks and appreciation for the noble sentiments you expressed, the precious confidence that I am proud of and the firm support for our march that is aimed at achieving the welfare of our noble and ancient peoples.

On this occasion I have the pleasure of congratulating you on the confidence the journalists have place in you by electing you their doyen. I am confident that the Egyptian press, which has gloriously defended every Arab right and has supported the issues of freedom because it believes that freedom is individible, is capable, by virtue of the freedom it enjoys and of the democratic atmosphere, to illuminate the road with free expression and constructive criticism in accord with our national soil and cultural heritage. Our strength will not be weakened nor will our resolve wane due to the fall of a martyr [late doyen of journalists Yusuf as-Siba'i] during our march of struggle. The blood of martyrs nourishes the tree of freedom and dignity so that it will grow. Our Egypt will remain lofty and proud. The waves of hatred and rancor will be shattered on its rocks, and the foam will vanish while what is good for the people will remain in the soil.

Please accept my greetings and wishes to you and to the press for continued success.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES YAR AMBASSADOR

JN0916444Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today received Hasan as-Sahuli, YAR ambassador in Cairo. The talks dealt with current Arab issues, Arab solidarity and the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

CUBAN WOMEN'S FEDERATION PRESIDENT ARRIVES

JN101515Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Bagndad, 10 April--Mrs Vilma Espin, member of the Cuban State Council, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Cuban Women's Federation, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a 5-day visit to Iraq. Mrs Espin said that the purpose of the visit is to learn about the status of Iraqi women and to hold talks with the Iraqi's Women's Federation so as to strengthen relations in all fields.

Meets With Ba'th Party Official

JN112009Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 April--Mr Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary general of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front, today met with Mrs Vilma Espin, member of the Council of State, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Women's Federation, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by a number of officials from the General Secretariat of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front; Mrs Manal Yunis, chief of the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi Women's Federation; the official in charge of foreign relations in the Federation; and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting, Mr Haddad expressed his appreciation for the development of Iraqi-Cuban relations, for the warm friendship which binds together the people of Iraq and Cuba and for their continued struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Mr Haddad saluted the stands of struggle taken by the Cuban Revolution under Dr Fidel Castro in supporting the Arab people of Palestine in their struggle to restore their rights and liberate their land. Mr Haddad referred to the close and principled stands taken by the two revolutions on all the causes of struggle and international issues, especially those issues which are related to the strengthening of the alliance with the socialist countries and with the world liberation movements. Mr Haddad stressed Iraq's principled stand on the side of the struggling forces in the Arab world, particularly the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in their just struggle against the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN120735Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 April--Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] last night received Mrs Vilma Espin, member of the Council of State, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Women's Federation, on the occasion of her visit to Iraq.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the scope of relations between the two friendly countries and the means of developing them. The meeting was attended by Manal Yunis, president of the Iraqi Women's Federation, and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES USSR, CUBAN AMBASSADORS

JN120852Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 April--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received the USSR and Cuban ambassadors in Baghdad separately this morning. Dr Hammadi discussed with Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Barkovskiy and Cuban Ambassador Ibanez Carretero bilateral relations and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES BAHRAINI HEALTH MINISTER

JN111231Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 April--At noon today RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received Bahraini Minister of Health Dr 'Ali Fakhru on the occasion of his visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the relations between the two fraternal countries and the means to develop them in the interest of the Iraqi and Bahraini peoples.

The meeting was attended by Health Minister Dr Riyad Ibrahim and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

IRAQ EXTENDS LAW PARDONING POLITICAL REFUGEES

JN101414Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The RCC has issued Decision No 378, dated 22 March 1978, extending the validity of Decision No 1337, dated 7 December 1977, pardoning Iraqi politicians abroad for crimes and sentences issued against them, including those accused and convicted because of the incidents in northern Iraq. The following is the text of the two decisions:

RCC Decision No 378, dated 22 March 1978:

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of Article 42 of the Provisional Constitution, the RCC meeting on 22 March 1978 has decided the following:

1. To extend the validity of RCC Decision No 1337, dated 7 December 1977, for a period of 3 months effective 19 December 1977.

2. The competent ministers shall implement this decision. [signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC

RCC Decision No 1337, dated 7 December 1977:

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of Article 42 of the Provisional Constitution, the RCC meeting on 7 December 1977 has decided the following:

1. All Iraqi political refugees abroad are pardoned for crimes and sentences issued against them, including those accused or convicted because of the incidents in the north. All sentences, measures or legal proceedings taken against them because of those crimes or sentences shall be canceled. Those accused or convicted of espionage crimes are excepted.

2. The provisions of this law apply to the accused or convicted referred to in paragraph one who return to Iraq within 2 months of the time the law goes into force. Those who do not return within the aforementioned period shall not enjoy this pardon.

3. This law shall go into force as of the date of its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The ministers and other competent quarters shall implement this decision. [signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC.

NUJOMA SEES ISRAEL, S. AFRICA AS BASES FOR IMPERIALISM

JN120823Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 12 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 April--Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], has declared that the United States is using the racist regimes in southern Africa and occupied Palestine to strike at liberation movements.

Speaking in an interview published here today in the weekly ALIF BA', Nujoma said that there is a great resemblance between South Africa and Israel: The former is an imperialist base in Africa and the latter is a base for U.S. interests in the Arab world.

Nujoma explained that the Zionist entity represents the limitless interests of U.S. imperialism, which seeks to control oil reserves in the world and to strike at liberation movements. What recently happened in southern Lebanon was a link in the chain of conspiracies the United States is hatching against the Arabs, Nujoma added.

The SWAPO leader pointed out that imperialism is trying to establish its control over the Horn of Africa in order to strike at the unity of the Africans and to jeopardize their security and safety.

Nujoma said that the recent visits by President Carter and other U.S. officials to Africa are part of an imperialist strategy to hamper the African revolution and to tighten control of African economic resources.

Nujoma affirmed that the Namibian fighters are strong and capable of continuing the armed struggle and achieving victory. He said that elections must not be held under pressure and at gunpoint. They must be under the supervision of the United Nations.

BULGARIAN, IRAQI PEACE COMMITTEES ISSUE DECLARATION

AU111752Y Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 5 Apr 78 p 5 AU

[Text] Baghdad, 4 April (RABOTNICHESKO DELO report). At the invitation of the National Council for Solidarity and Peace in Iraq, a delegation of the Bulgarian peace proponents led by Georgi Dimitrov-Goshkin, chairman of the National Committee for the Defense of Peace, has visited this country. At the end of the visit a joint declaration was published.

The declaration condemned the actions of imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East that are directed against the Arab national liberation movement and the Palestinian resistance movement, because these actions are aimed at restoring imperialist influence in this area and at assisting the Israeli Zionist expansion, such as the recent aggression in southern Lebanon. The attempts at a separate agreement with Israel were also condemned because they are also aimed at tearing the Arab front apart and isolating it from its historic alliance with the anti-imperialist forces and particularly with the world socialist community. The two sides reaffirmed that a stable and just peace in the Middle East can be achieved only if the Israeli troops are withdrawn from all occupied Arab territories and if the national rights of the Palestinian people are restored.

The Iraqi side highly appraised the efforts of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and of the peace proponents' movement for strengthening peace in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean area, as well as peace and security in Europe in the spirit of the Helsinki Conference decisions.

FU'AD BUTRUS COMMENTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC111300Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus made a statement at the end of the working meeting which was held at the presidential palace at 1330.

Asked whether Lebanon had received direct information on the Israeli withdrawal today, he said: As of now, we have received no information on the partial Israeli withdrawal which they have pledged to carry out. Minister Butrus then added: I wish to reiterate that the Lebanese authorities have never ceased exerting efforts, using all the means at their disposal, to insure a comprehensive withdrawal as soon as possible. They have also tried to receive a definite and clear-cut timetable which would put into effect Israel's pledge to unconditional withdrawal. We will continue our efforts until the withdrawal is achieved. It is evident that this withdrawal is one of the important factors which might, and must, enable the Lebanese authorities to extend their control over the southern region in accordance to what has to be achieved. In the long run, this control, together with the state's authority in the south, should inevitably be comprehensive over all parties, including Israel and all other parties.

PSP OPPOSES DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE

JN111645Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--The Progressive Socialist Party has declared that the invitation by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to discuss the Palestinian issue is a dangerous decision. The party called on the Lebanese State to shoulder its national responsibilities and to confront the occupation.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party called on the Lebanese authorities to oppose the voices calling for diverting attention from the Zionist occupation and for not sending the authorities' security and civilian services to the occupied areas. The statement, which was issued following a meeting held by the Command Council under Walid Junblatt, president of the party, says that it expects the Chamber of Deputies in this phase to tackle the occupation through the mobilization of all the nationalist forces, particularly the representatives of the people, to confront the enemy with all means. It also called for defending the soil of the homeland and making contacts to force the Zionist enemy to withdraw from Lebanese territory.

VOICE OF LEBANON ON SARKIS-AL-JUMAYYIL MEETING

NC111835Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] At President Sarkis' urgent request, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil this evening met with President Sarkis. It has been learned that the president of the republic and the Phalangists have agreed on the need to contain the deteriorating situation at the earliest possible time since all available information speaks of serious consequences if the battles continue.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has made an appeal to all the Lebanese people to cooperate to halt the deterioration and issued an order to the Phalangists and their friends not to return the fire in the 'Ayn ar-Rammanah area.

In his appeal, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil stressed the importance of cooperation with the Arab deterrent forces as fraternal forces, adding that some tendentious people are trying to harm our relations with these forces.

LEBANESE ARMY REPORTEDLY PLACED ON ALERT

NC111836Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At the political level, President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting with Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Col Ahmad al-Hajj; the discussion centered on the question of making contacts at the Arab level to put pressure on the Palestinian leftist alliance.

It has also been decided that the Internal Security Forces will be responsible for maintaining security in the internal quarters and for watching suspect activity. One of the most important security meetings was the meeting held between Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri with the army staff commanders. All aspects of the deteriorating situation were discussed.

It has been learned that the army command has informed the official circles that it has put its armed units in a state of alert to face any eventuality.

DETERRENT FORCES ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON INCIDENTS

NC112010Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Communique issued by the command of the Arab deterrent forces on 11 April--read by announcer]

[Text] As a followup to its communique issued yesterday, Monday, 10 April, on the security situation in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area, the Arab deterrent forces command announces the following:

1. The forces assigned with the task of separating the two areas have taken up position on the old Sidon road between the Mar Mikha'il Church and the At-Tayyunah traffic circle.

2. These forces have stopped the clashes between the two areas. However, sniping from some uncontrolled positions continued intermittently this afternoon. It was necessary to deal with them by means of direct shelling in accordance with what was mentioned in the yesterday's communique. These forces are continuing to tackle the situation within this context until a complete and comprehensive cease-fire is achieved. As a result of this, four soldiers of the Arab deterrent forces were injured: two of them Sudanese and the other two Syrian.

There were 3 people killed and 11 wounded among the fighting sides. These people were hit in areas where snipers had taken up position. During their deployment the Arab deterrent forces were careful to pinpoint and contain the sources of fire in order to avoid inflicting casualties on innocent citizens. They are maintaining this attitude.

EFFORTS IN PROGRESS TO CONTAIN INCIDENTS

NC111735Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The consequences of the regrettable incident which took place between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah are still commanding the attention of officials today. It can be said that every effort is being exerted to contain these consequences and to keep the incident as confined as possible.

The Arab deterrent forces today took up position on the line dividing the two areas despite the continuous sniping activities. These forces shelled the sources of fire, refraining as much as possible from inflicting casualties on innocent civilians. The sniping resulted in the injury of four of the Arab deterrent forces' soldiers, two of them Syrian and the other two Sudanese.

Further Report

NC111633Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis has invited Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil to a meeting at 1730 this evening at the presidential palace in B'abda to discuss the general situation and security developments.

Phalangist leader Al-Jumayyil has toured the areas of the clashes and asked the public to remain calm and to frustrate the objectives of those creating tension. He also held contacts with Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and the Arab deterrent forces commander, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, in connection with the call for pooling efforts to contain the crisis.

According to the latest reports from the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area, the shelling of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah has been resumed heavily from guns mounted on vehicles and from heavy weapons. This was accompanied and followed by continuous sniping to which a fire engine was subjected twice in Pierre al-Jumayyil Street.

The shelling and shooting in this axis is continuing despite the extensive contacts held today, particularly the contacts between Lebanese forces representatives and deterrent forces officer Lt Col Muhammad al-Kahyr, and despite the agreement with him on the need for an end to the shooting and for the deployment of deterrent forces in areas and places overlooking both sides. The Palestinians and leftists have continued firing. As a result, there were 27 casualties including two dead. There were 15 casualties on the other side.

VOICE OF LEBANON CALLS FOR BLOOD DONATIONS

NC111634Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1525 GMT 11 Apr 78 NC

[Text] We have just received the following: The Furn ash-Shubbak Phalangist hospital calls on the public to donate blood, especially of the B-positive type, at the Furn ash-Shubbak hospital in the Sayyidat al-Ma'unah Street.

OFFICIALS PREVENT ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS

NC101504Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 10 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A total of 56 Iraqi youths were prevented from entering Lebanon last night. This action was taken in implementation of the decision to ban the entry into Lebanon of any persons not carrying entry visas from Lebanese Consulates or Embassies abroad. The Iraqi youths stated at the airport that they had come to Lebanon in order to study. The school year, however, is already in its third and final term. Public security officials also prevented the entry this morning of 17 tourists who had arrived from a certain Mediterranean island. They, too, were not carrying entry visas from any Lebanese Embassy or Consulate abroad. The director general of public security, Amir Faruq Abu al-Lam', and a number of officials supervised the implementation of the above-mentioned decision.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA SENDS LETTER TO OAU ON CUBILLO ATTACK

LD112310Y Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1830 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] According to the EUROPA PRESS AGENCY, Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika has sent a letter to the OAU secretary general regarding the attack on Antonio Cubillo, leader of the Popular Movement for the Self-Determination and Independence of the Canaries Archipelago [MPAIAC]. Mr Bouteflika is quoted by the EUROPA PRESS AGENCY as saying that this act of aggression is an intolerable attack on the sovereignty of Algeria--a grave affront and provocation against Africa and the OAU. Mr Bouteflika also says that the attack must be seen within the context of the evolution of the theme of the Canaries Archipelago, and more especially with the most recent meeting of the OAU's meeting held in Tripoli, at which the African character of the Canaries was reaffirmed, and in the context of the call made to the UN for including the archipelago among those territories listed as nonautonomous and granting material and political aid to the MPAIAC. In Spain, this communication has caused some surprise, for although a communication had been requested by the Spanish Foreign Ministry, the request was aimed at seeking an explanation about the circumstances and about those detained in connection with the attack on Antonio Cubillo. Thus far Algeria has not replied to this.

Also, there is something that is not very clear about this attack against the Canaries' pro-independence leader. The first reports of the attack reached Madrid on the very same day that the Spanish foreign minister was beginning a trip to four African countries in order to reaffirm Spain's presence in that continent, and above all to make clear to all the governments the Spanish character of the Canary Islands. The organs of the Spanish press are saying that there are some doubts about the affair, and that the attack on Cubillo has been a vast publicity stunt mounted by the MPAIAC, which seeks to pin responsibility on the Spanish Government. But the latter did not delay in condemning the attack and in rejecting the allegations made by certain circles in Algiers which sought to involve the Spanish Government in the affair. Efforts have also been made to lay some blame on the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE]. An explanation for this might well be found in the discontent created among MPAIAC militants by the visit to Algiers by PSOE Secretary General Felipe Gonzalez, which coincided with the closing down of the Algerian radio broadcasts through which Antonio Cubillo addressed his message.

SYRIAN, PDRY POSITIONS ON ARAB SUMMIT CITED

LD111552Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--The Syrian ambassador to Algiers was received on Monday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the context of the current consultations between the member-countries of the steadfastness and confrontation front concerning the development of the cause of the Arab nation.

According to responsible circles at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Syrian ambassador defined his country's stand with regard to recent Arab initiatives. This stand is as follows:

"The objective of the eventual convening of an Arab summit is to screen As-Sadat's policy. That is why we share the idea of a necessary commitment to the decisions of the Tripoli and Algiers summits and the ministerial meeting in Damascus.

"In this regard, all discussion of a joint Arab action must necessarily be preceded by the closing of the road opened between Cairo and Jerusalem and the unequivocal proclamation of the renunciation of the policy of capitulation followed by As-Sadat.

"In the absence of this, any summit meeting would only serve to confere the mark of Arab legitimacy on As-Sadat's action."

From the same source it is also learned that the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen has for its part informed the minister of foreign affairs of its stand, which is summed up as follows:

"The PDRY reaffirms its commitment to the decisions taken at the Tripoli and Algiers summits and at the ministerial conference in Damascus. On that basis it will thus not participate in any Arab summit, in accordance with the principles and objectives to which the member-countries of the steadfastness and confrontation front have subscribed."

It is also to be noted that the other member-countries of the steadfastness and confrontation front have expressed analogous stands.

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM PRC OFFICIALS

From Hua Kuo-feng

LD111700Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--President Boumediene has received a message of thanks from Hua Kuo-feng, premier of the PRC State Council. Here is the text of the message:

"I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for the message of congratulations which you kindly addressed to me on the occasion of my accession to the post of premier of the PRC Council of State. May the links of friendship between the Chinese and Algerian peoples continue to develop."

From Yeh Chien-ying

LD111700Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--President Boumediene has received a message from Yeh Chien-ying, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress. Here is the text of this message:

"I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for the message of congratulations you kindly addressed to me on the occasion of my election to the post of chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress. I wish your country prosperity and your people happiness."

MAURITANIA

POLISARIO FRONT BLAMED FOR TRAIN DERAILMENT

PA111935Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Apr (AFP)--A Mauritanian ore train was derailed today as a result of sabotage by the POLISARIO Front (for the independence of the Sahara) and was later the target of an attack with heavy artillery, it was learned here today from a reliable source.

According to the source, no one was hurt in the attack although damage was considered "relatively" high. Three days ago a similar attack took place near this area, on the Nuadhibou-Zuerate line, 250 kms southwest of Nouakchott. Three Mauritanian soldiers were wounded.

MOROCCO

INFORMATION MINISTER STATES POSITION ON SAHARA

LD061413Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 22 Mar 78 pp 1, 6 LD

[Map report on remarks made to EFE by Moroccan Information Minister Mohamed Larbi Khattabi: "Morocco Has Never Lost Sovereignty Over Its Sahara"]

[Text] Information Minister Mr Mohamed Larbi Khattabi has declared to the Spanish Agency EFE that "the Madrid tripartite agreement did not transfer sovereignty over the Sahara to Morocco because Morocco has never lost its sovereignty over this territory."

The information minister added that, as far as the Sahara is concerned, Morocco's position remains unchanged following the statements made to the Spanish Cortes by personalities who intervened at the time of the Sahara's decolonization.

"We have enforced strictly the Madrid agreements signed with the legitimate Spanish Government and we are now striving to develop our southern provinces," Mr Larbi Khattabi declared.

The information minister reaffirmed to EFE that "Morocco has no political problems with Spain and its only wish is to maintain close cooperation with this country in all spheres."

As proof of the perennial nature of Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara, Mr Khattabi recalled that the delegate of the northern region, Grand Vizir Mohamed Al Aghdaf, who was stationed in the Sahara and recognized by Spain, never ceased to renew the Saharan population's allegiance to the Sultan of Morocco through his caliph at Tetuan.

The information minister did, however, acknowledge that Morocco accepted the principle of self-determination for the Sahara in 1966, but on condition that Spain withdraw all its troops and that the self-determination process be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. But Spain opposed the resolution on this matter adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Mr Mohamed Larbi Khattabi added that self-determination has already been carried out by the Saharan Jemaa, in accordance with article 3 of the Madrid agreements--the Jemaa, the Saharan People's Representative Assembly, declared itself in favor of the Sahara's return to Morocco in the early months of 1976. The information minister categorically denied that the so-called "POLISARIO front" is the sole representative of the Saharan people, as Col Rodriguez de Viguri, former Spanish secretary general in the Sahara, has claimed. Mr Larbi Khattabi asserted that the resistance to Spanish presence had been Moroccan since 1956 and that Colonel de Viguri had omitted saying that when he was Spanish secretary general in the Sahara he considered the Jemaa, and later the Party of Saharan National Unity [PUNS], as sole representatives of the Saharan people--the PUNS leaders and the majority of the Jemaa's members rallied to Morocco during the decolonization crisis and declared themselves subjects of His Majesty King Hassan II.

The information minister recalled that, according to Colonel Viguri, the so-called "POLISARIO front" had some 5,000 members, whereas the total Saharan population, according to an official Spanish census, was estimated at 74,000 persons.

Mr Khattabi revealed that the so-called "POLISARIO" was created at Zouirate in 1973 and that its main leaders came from Moroccan provinces such as Tarfaya and Agadir.

The present prime minister of the so-called Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], Mohamed Lamine, is a native of Agadir and studied at the Mohamed V University in Rabat. As for Mustapha El Ouali, who was killed during the attack on Nouakchott, he was also Moroccan before the Sahara was recovered, Mr Khattabi recalled.

The information minister added that the so-called SDAR's so-called Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim was secretary to the Mauritanian Embassy in Algiers and that, until 1974, Baba Miske was Mauritania's permanent UN representative.

Mr Mohamed Larbi Khattabi stressed to the Spanish agency that the Green March was organized in absolute secrecy and that the only declaration was the announcement made by His Majesty King Hassan II in October 1975. Moroccan ministers had sworn not to reveal any of the details of how it was organized.

Regarding the Anglo-Spanish talks on Gibraltar, which are linked to the question of Ceuta and Melilia, the information minister declared that Morocco is following these negotiations with great interest and has expressed its desire to see a satisfactory agreement reached.

The EFE correspondent who obtained this interview recalled in this connection the statement which His Majesty King Hassan II made to Spanish journalists in Marrakesh, the gist of which was that, when Spain has recovered Gibraltar, it will be an appropriate moment to discuss Ceuta and Melilia since the great powers will not allow a single country to control both sides of the strait.

AL-MAGHREB: CARTER WRONG TO FAVOR NIGERIA OVER OAU

LD112154Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Moroccan newspaper AL-MAGHREB reviews President Carter's visit to Africa. In particular it underlines the well-founded reproaches made by Gabonese President al-Hadj Omar Bongo, current president of the OAU, to the head of the American executive branch, who should have "visited the incumbent OAU president who is, as everyone knows, the representative of all independent Africa. For a year the OAU head has been dealing with all matters concerning the peace and security of the continent.

"Nobody doubts President Carter's sincerity nor his defense of human rights--which he discussed, moreover, in the Liberian capital; nor does anyone doubt the weight of his new warnings to Pretoria on the subject of Namibia's future. However, it must be recognized that every fundamental agreement on these troublespots of Africa" should be discussed with the main parties concerned and Africa's mandated officials, and not exclusively in the capital of one state, even the most densely populated and the richest. Between giants there are certainly things to be said, but this rather cavalier method of ignoring the "little ones" and their organization hardly corresponds to the image which the Carter administration tried to project at the beginning of the current presidency of the White House.

After recalling that 92 percent of the black American electorate voted for Carter, AL-MAGHREB adds that "this will not be the first nor the last time that Jimmy Carter has defied Africa in this way. The White House is not only indifferent to the OAU, but it divides and fights it. Last October, the election of nonpermanent members to the UN Security Council offered the OAU the opportunity for curbing its differences and the United States the opportunity for affirming its supremacy and imposing its wishes on the heavy UN machinery. Already extensively discussed at the Libreville OAU summit, the African candidacy of Niger seemed to have everyone's approval, especially after the elimination of Chad's candidacy because of the OAU principle of avoiding the accumulation by Chad of posts, since it is both a member of the economic and social council and the administrative council for the UN environment program. But Carter's America decided to have Nigeria elected to the Security Council. The Carter's America is always right, as is the America of all the inhabitants of the White House--even if it is against the OAU. Niger simply added that it was not Niger which was beaten but the Organization of African Unity.

"Nigeria is the key to any solution of the problems of Africa." According to President Carter, Nigeria remains the favorite and the privileged partner of the United States [passage indistinct]. While occupying a dominant position on the economic level, the United States seems to be going backwards on the political-military levels and ignores the OAU framework within which the Africans have chosen to solve their problems, and that is going to continue. [passage indistinct]

SUDAN

NUMAYRI SAYS USSR BEHIND RECENT STRIKES

PA100005Y Paris AFP in English 2359 GMT 9 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Khartoum, April 10 [as received] (AFP)--The Soviet Union is behind recent strikes in Sudan, particularly one started two days ago by doctors, President Ja'far Numayri complained here yesterday. He told a mass rally staged by "working forces" in support of his policies: "The strike by these doctors is politically motivated, and those who staged it are receiving their instructions from Moscow."

General Numayri said he had learnt in the past few days that some Sudanese trade unionists were in contact with foreign embassies here "which have some greed in this country." He added: "I am watching all intruders in this country and all those who are working against it, and foreigners who are working within the confines of their embassies." General Numayri told the rally: "I have warned you (?not to) listen to or to walk with the Soviet bear."

The president announced that from today he would "suspend" his official duties for a week in order to devote himself to a mission assigned to him by the Arab League to set up a committee charged with restoring Arab solidarity and liquidating inter-Arab differences in preparations for an Arab summit meeting.

TOGO PRESIDENT STOPS ON WAY TO SAUDI ARABIA

LD091903Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo, and the delegation accompanying his excellency, stopped at Khartoum airport at 1230 today on his way to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On arrival at Khartoum airport he was received by President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, Vice President of the Republic Abel Alier, and a number of ministers, ministers of state and senior officials.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

LD061605Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 29 Mar 78 pp 1-2 LD

[Excerpt] In a statement made to the Saudi information agency in Riyadh on Monday Mr Hedi Nouira said that Tunisian-Saudi relations are excellent.

Referring to recent developments in the Near East, the prime minister stated that it emerged from his talks with Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that the two sides held similar views both on this problem and on the steps which the Arabs should take to deal with Israeli aggression.

Hedi Nouira explained that the present situation, as understood by the two sides, calls above all for unity among the Arabs since the objective pursued is the same for them all. This calls for unity of purpose and action. Hedi Nouira stated that the crisis would last for some time to come, that it would prove difficult to resolve it and that it is to be feared that the Arab nation as a whole would have to pay for any settlement of the problem.

Tunisia, he continued, is in favor of any meeting among Arab leaders. However, various groups should meet separately. Tunisia, which does not want to join any particular group, will tirelessly continue its efforts with a view to uniting the Arab ranks.

Arab summit conferences cannot lead to positive results unless they are carefully prepared, an agenda is prepared in advance and a consensus is established with respect to the problems to be discussed by Arab monarchs and heads of state. It would be absurd to run the risk of holding such meetings unless an agreement concerning questions to be discussed were first achieved.

Hedi Nouira denounced the policy pursued by Israel and stated that Israel's obstinacy has increased since Menahem Begin came to power. And he added that as long as Begin continues to be in charge of Israeli policy it will be very difficult to find a complete solution to the Near East problem.

The prime minister emphasized that Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon would be a setback for Israel's expansionist policy.

Hedi Nouira also discussed Tunisia's development policy and the events which took place in our country in January 1978.

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RECEIVES JORDANIAN MINISTER

LD111743Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Late this morning Bourguiba received Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs and King Husayn's envoy to President Bourguiba. The president earlier had talks with Mohamed Fitouri, Tunisian foreign minister. The Jordanian envoy said in a statement that he had conveyed the greetings of King Husayn to President Bourguiba and had delivered a letter from the king of Jordan containing a Jordanian plan of action which will form the basis of discussion at the Arab summit which Jordan has called for, following careful preparations.

Hasan Ibrahim said that President Bourguiba gave him a valuable assessment of the current Arab situation. His views are extremely clear and are aimed essentially at serving the Arabs. He added that Bourguiba asked him to return greetings to the Jordanian king.

Received by Prime Minister

LD111744Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this morning received Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, who said that their talks took place in an atmosphere of cordial fraternity. They discussed the present situation in the Arab world and King Husayn's call for an Arab summit. The Jordanian envoy added that he had discussed with the prime minister the agenda proposed by Jordan for the summit.

WESTERN SAHARA

NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT GRANTS INTERVIEW

LD102301Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] In the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], the president of the Saharan National Council has given an interview to the Lebanese daily AN-NIDA' in which, among other things, he declares that the Saharan revolution is experiencing a crucial period owing to intervention by foreign troops against a people who are few in number but have (?on their side) the will to live and the determination to continue the struggle.

In reply to a question on the position of Arab countries with regard to the SDAR, Mr (Mehmet Mahmud) expressed his high regard for the PDRY, which recently recognized the SDAR. We have, he said, explained our cause to all states, particularly the Arab ones; so it is for each state to define its position on the basis of the political issues and in accordance with the obligations (?of each state).

APS ON ACTIVITIES OF SAHARAN LIBERATION ARMY

LD091736Y Algiers APS in English 0900 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--At the end of March 1978 the Saharan Popular Liberation Army [ALPS] enabled over 400 nationals to flee the zones occupied by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and to go to the liberated territories.

Guarded in camps and closely controlled by the occupying armed forces, who held them to ransom and kept them deliberately in inhuman living conditions in the vain hope that they would renounce their national aspirations and submit, the prisoners dared to face the enemy's arms and troops and joined the units of the ALPS.

Coming from the regions of Dakhla and Aousserd, where at the end of the last month the Saharan fighters laid seige to the local prison and liberated about ten of their compatriots, they were led to the liberated territories.

At the same time the units of the ALPS carried out a successful operation against the troops of aggression of the Rabat annexionist regime, one unit of which fell into an ambush set for them on 24 March 1978 north of Tizgui Remz in southern Morocco. Seven enemy soldiers were killed. The same number were wounded and six of their vehicles destroyed or severely damaged.

IDF BEGINS WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA111030Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Apr 78 TA

[From Reports on Security and Army Affairs]

[Text] At the moment the IDF is continuing the first stage of evacuating southern Lebanon, the evacuation of part of the eastern front. The evacuation began about 2 hours ago and will end in the evening. Our military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports from southern Lebanon.

At 1000 [0800 GMT] the IDF began its partial withdrawal from southern Lebanon. At this time a unit of the Norwegian UN force arrived at the village of Rashayya Al Fukhkhar, 10 km northeast of Metualla. According to plan, the IDF waited about 30 minutes for the Norwegians to get organized and then left. Another post has already been evacuated and at the moment the IDF is evacuating another point. In all the IDF will evacuate seven posts by 1700. A front about 12-km long and 2- to 5-km deep will be handed over to the Norwegians.

The IDF forces will deploy along a new line that will include the villages of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Qulay'ah and Dayr Minas in the Christian enclave and the village of Al Khiyam. The evacuation is being carried out rapidly since the IDF has already thinned out most of its forces on this front. There is a certain symbolism attached to today's evacuation, although it is devoid of ceremony.

ZIPPORI DENIES WEIZMAN TO RETURN TO CAIRO

TA111124Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Bina Barzel]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is not due to go to Egypt again--the deputy defense minister, Mordekhay Zippori, revealed last night.

In his appearance at the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Herut Movement, Zippori pointed out that 'Ezer Weizman was not due to go to Cairo from the beginning and all the reports on this matter were nothing but a "journalistic canard."

I asked the deputy defense minister this morning to comment on these remarks, but he refused.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON IDF S. LEBANON OPERATION

TA112219Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 11 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midnight Newsreel]

[Text] The UN force in southern Lebanon is giving the impression that it intends to take control over the area. This was said today by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Mr Begin added that the United States is not exerting pressure on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon before the UN force deployment. The prime minister was addressing the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. Our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports on his statements:

The prime minister is convinced that the Litani operation was successful and he mentioned several reasons for this. First, the terrorists have been pushed back beyond the Litani River; the infrastructure they created and the buildings they erected in southern Lebanon were destroyed and the numerous pieces of equipment they had concentrated in the area were destroyed or captured.

Furthermore, the IDF created an unprecedented reality: the presence of UN forces, which intend to keep southern Lebanon under control. Proof of the sincerity of this intention, the prime minister sees in the fact that the UN force was equipped with light tanks and with armored cars and not only with light arms, as well as in the fact that the force received orders to open fire on the terrorists should they seek to renew their activities from the south.

The prime minister added that Israel intends to maintain several basic facts it has created, among them the continuation of the good fence activities, and to maintain direct contact with the Christian enclaves. The prime minister emphasized that even had the bus bloodshed incident not occurred, we would eventually have reached a situation in which we would have been forced to act as we have. The prime minister added that it is good that we did not choose to retaliate with a massive air attack, which would have caused much greater destruction and a much sharper international reaction than did the Litani operation.

Mr Begin also disclosed that the use of cluster bombs by the air force in southern Lebanon was done with the full knowledge of the defense minister.

Further Details Reported

TA120715Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said yesterday that UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, is giving the firm impression that it intends to control those parts of south Lebanon from which Israeli forces are gradually withdrawing.

Begin told the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Knesset that UNIFIL was getting light tanks, armoured cars, and more than mere personal sidearms.

"They appear to mean business. They have orders to fire at the terrorists if need be. We can expect the terrorists to try to come back down south, and we can only assume that UNIFIL will make it difficult for them," Begin said.

He said that relations with overall commander of UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, and the UNIFIL commander Maj Gen [rank as published] Emmanuel Erskine, were excellent. "Things are going like clockwork with them so far," Begin said.

There was no UN pressure on Israel to accelerate the evacuation process, he said. The UN understood that the extent to which Israel would pull its units back was dependent on the degree to which UNIFIL was already on the spot and ready to deploy along the whole front. The UN realized that it had to bring UNIFIL up to full strength.

The U.S. is not trying to stampede Israel into a hasty evacuation--even if some may have the opposite impression, Begin said.

He told the committee that the southern Lebanon operation brought several indisputable gains. The terrorists were pushed back across the Litani River and their infrastructure south of the Litani had been shattered.

Had last month's terrorist outrage on the coastal road never taken place, he said, Israel sooner or later would have had to strike at the terrorists in southern Lebanon. "Had we hit them with planes alone, we would have done much more destruction and drawn more blame," he said.

Apart from these changes along the northern border, Begin said, Israel's operation has created the new fact of the UNIFIL presence, which is a significant development, while the Arab states--and above all Syria--stood idly by.

Begin conceded that the picture in southern Lebanon, and UNIFIL's place in that picture, would become clearer in two or three weeks.

Only two members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee criticized the operation, Yosi Sarid (Alinement-Labour) criticized it in very strong terms, and Amnon Rubinstein (Democratic Movement for Change) somewhat more mildly.

Me'ir Talmi (Alinement-MAPAM) said there were some achievements of the operation which could not be ignored. Abba Eban (Alinement-Labour) said there was no reason to fear strong U.S. pressure for a hurried withdrawal.

Begin said that Israel was determined to maintain certain elements of the border situation which existed before the operation, such as the "good fence" links and the physical contact with the Christian enclaves.

Regarding the stalled negotiations with Egypt, Begin said that President Anwar as-Sadat still held to his former demands. "So there is no change." He refused to answer a question as to whether, or when, Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman would be returning to Cairo.

Asked about Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's comment that Israel was pushing the United States into the sidelines by stressing direct contact with Egypt so much, Begin denied that this was so. Israel was giving the United States a central role all the time.

Asked by Moshe Shamir (Likud-La'am) why development work in the existing settlements in the areas was being frozen, Begin said there was no basis to Shamir's question. Development projects were continuing according to plan, and investments were being made all the time, he said.

MA'ARIV ATTACKS IDEA OF U.S. GUARANTEES

TA1115197 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Apr 78 p 18 TA

[Sha'ul Ben-Hayyim commentary]

[Text] They are again talking a lot in Washington about U.S. guarantees to Israel. The visit of the aircraft carrier "Nimitz" to Haifa is a part of this talk. It is also an attempt to demonstrate how enormous is the strength of the superpower, how credible U.S. guarantees would be as a substitute for peace treaties and security borders. Anybody who today speaks about guarantees, U.S. bases in Sinai or Jaffa, (as expressed in the leaks by James Reston, the New York TIMES columnist and supporter of the Carter administration) does not believe in peace in the Middle East: maybe--a side thought--is not interested in it.

The lack of belief is demonstrated by the fact of the timing of these things. Despite the demonstrated nonagreement of the U.S. administration with the Cabinet of Israel during the visit by the prime minister of Israel to the U.S. capital and afterwards; despite all the dark prophecies claiming that President as-Sadat's initiative has been hit hard--Israel and Egypt are proving that there is no truth in these. The Israeli-Egyptian dialog continues. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is due to go to Cairo again this week, with the communications channels open and active at all times.

Is there no possibility--at least theoretically--that Cairo and Jerusalem will reach understanding through negotiations? Must one necessarily assume in advance that these talks have no chance and that there will be no alternative to unilateral Israeli concessions? Anyone who follows what is being said across the ocean has the impression that the script presented there puts forward a series of conditions about which it is known in advance that they will not be acceptable to Israel and which are being put forward only to prevent dialog between the two greatest and strongest countries in the Middle East.

Furthermore, anyone who speaks today about stationing U.S. bases in Sinai and along the shores of the Mediterranean is suggesting several dangerous basic data:

--Anyone proposing stationing U.S. recruits in Israel is in fact admitting that he foresees a situation in which the State of Israel will be in real danger even after the settlement. That is, that the borders he is proposing to Israel are mainly borders without security. In order to guarantee the existence and prevent the danger of the physical extermination of the state which is not capable of defending itself, it is proposed that we accept a collective U.S. bodyguard.

--Anyone proposing guarantees to Israel is doing so out of pure self-interest. Indeed, the United States is interested in a base in Sinai for its aircraft in order to demonstrate a presence in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea which is gradually becoming a Soviet sea. Under the current conditions in the Mediterranean basin, the Sixth Fleet will be helped by coastal services along the eastern section of the Mediterranean, not far from the routes of Soviet ships crossing the Mediterranean from the Turkish Bosporus Straits to the Suez Canal and onward to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

--Anyone proposing all this is assuming that the U.S. presence will prevent any risk of a new flareup in the Middle East, for nobody would suspect a ruling establishment which is known for its emphatic opposition to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam of sending its soldiers to fight once more far from the borders of the American continent; except that it would be more convenient to accept the blessing of the Congress and the United States on stationing forces in the area on the pretext of guarding Israel while veiling the real reasons.

The establishment of U.S. military bases in the Middle East contradicts Israel's real interests and those of Egypt as well. These bases would be a provocation of the Soviet Union, which would try to balance the U.S. presence with a Soviet presence. Thus, it would turn out that interbloc tension, which has decreased since 1973, would again increase.

Neither Israel nor Egypt has any interest in this. The continuation of the dialog between the two countries proves that there is a feeling in both capitals that President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem following secret negotiations is creating new conditions in the Middle East. This means changing the situation of war into conditions of peace, with both sides aiming at cooperation and fostering their interests without encouraging an interbloc confrontation in which the countries of the area would become weapons in the hands of the superpowers.

Both Egypt and Israel welcome the continuation of U.S. involvement in the Middle East and prefer it to Soviet involvement. But U.S. involvement does not have to include a military presence which would only complicate the situation.

Such talk even increases the pressure by the rejectionist countries (at Soviet initiative) on Egypt. They give the Egyptian president's opponents an additional claim: Here, look, even the Americans do not believe in the chance of the "treacherous initiative." From this aspect, the interests of Jerusalem and Cairo are identical. Israel, too, is not interested in anything likely to make it more difficult for the president of Egypt to conduct genuine negotiations.

The reservations we feel about the proposals regarding a U.S. guarantee are not new. When former Senator William Fulbright put forward the proposal for the first time, it was intended to come instead of peace, to obtain Israel's withdrawal from the territories without an Arab quid pro quo. The Israeli reaction then was clear: No thanks. Talk about a guarantee is likely to be taken into account only after a peace agreement and not instead of it.

This is how Israel replied to the United States during the days when Jerusalem-Washington relations were close and sincere, when the prime minister's visit was not used to stress what separates the two countries, but what is common to them. With the change in circumstances the Israeli claim is even more emphatic.

HA'AREZ CONSIDERS ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. GUARANTEES

TA111116Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 78 p 11 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] James Reston's latest article in the New York TIMES repeats an idea which Cyrus Vance put forward on 24 March and Roy Atherton also mentioned on 5 April: the granting of a U.S. guarantee for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East which would take the tangible form of a U.S. military presence in Israel. To be more precise: a U.S. Air Force base in Sinai (at one of the airfields which Israel will evacuate when returning the Sinai Peninsula to Egyptian sovereignty) and a base for ships of the Sixth Fleet in an Israeli port. The well-known journalist relies on moods he encountered among senior officials in the administration. It is the general view that they wanted to scrutinize us to find out whether this idea is at all acceptable to Israel, since, if it is rejected, there is no room to assume that they will advise President Carter to continue efforts to bring about a possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, or to proselytize for this solution among members of Congress, without whose agreement nothing, of course, can be done.

It is clear that the school of thought initiating the idea and taking the trouble to get it moving are acting on the assumption that the U.S. leadership is not prepared to leave Israeli control over Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip as it exists today. It may even be assumed that they do not foresee a possibility of peace other than on the basis of an almost total withdrawal by the IDF from these territories. But in their view Israel can be compensated for the security provocations it can expect following the broad territorial concession by a U.S. military presence on its southern coast and along the border with Egypt.

There are weighty considerations against the acceptance of this idea, and not only because its achievement may involve concessions of most of the administered territories. The credibility of a U.S. guarantee is not entirely without any shadow of a doubt even among the allies of the United States in West Europe. The "rejectionist front" countries would condemn such a U.S. consolidation as an "imperialist" threat and the Soviet Union would back them. It should also be taken into account that the U.S. Congress may consider the idea with many hesitations, from the moment it moves out of an intellectual argument and becomes an issue of responsible voting.

On the other hand, we must also consider the positive possibilities involved in accepting a U.S. guarantee of this type: the tightening of the link with the United States, with all this could involve, and an efficient curbing of aggressive intentions on the part of all the Arab countries which do not want to fall prey to radical trends. Anybody who believes that the cabinet's current policy will in the end be crowned with success will dismiss the value of a U.S. guarantee and any thought of a U.S. base of any sort on our land, but anybody who does not adhere to this belief is not absolved from the need to analyze the reasons for and against without adhering to views which in the past were accepted by practically all of us.

WEIZMAN EXPLAINS REFUSAL TO DISARM CHRISTIANS

TA110923Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman met last night with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. The situation in southern Lebanon was discussed, among other things. It is not inconceivable that the defense minister detailed the reasons for Israel's opposition to the UN demand to disarm the Christians in southern Lebanon.

The UN demand is that the Christians in southern Lebanon should be disarmed within the framework of the aim that southern Lebanon should be emptied of armed forces. The UN claims that the application of this aim to the PLO and the Moslems but not to the Christians cannot be considered.

No official statement was issued on the meeting between Weizman and Lewis. The details of the meeting were confirmed to our correspondent by an Israeli source, in reply to a question, after a report of the meeting appeared last night on Jordanian television in its news in Hebrew.

It may be assumed that the issue of the contacts with Egypt was also put forward at the meeting, in preparation for the defense minister's upcoming visit to Cairo.

In this connection, Jerusalem has shown satisfaction at the latest interview President as-Sadat gave to the OCTOBER weekly, where he twice expressed willingness "to show even more patience" so as to give Prime Minister Menahem Begin another opportunity to get used to his peace initiative.

As will be recalled, President as-Sadat, in an interview to OCTOBER a week ago, announced that 'Ezer Weizman would return to Cairo this week, the week beginning 9 April. Nevertheless, Jerusalem is waiting for a specific Egyptian invitation, on the assumption that if Weizman initiates the visit, the matter will arouse expectations of new Israeli proposals, while an invitation from the Egyptian president would prevent such assumptions and permit quieter and more convenient conditions for practical talks.

U.S. Ambassador Lewis yesterday morning met with Foreign Ministry Director General Efrayyim 'Evron in his Jerusalem office. It is known that the meeting was set casually, when 'Evron and Lewis met yesterday in the Knesset building at the Wolf prize distribution ceremony. A Foreign Ministry spokesman reported, in reply to a question, that this was a routine meeting and that such meetings are held about once a week.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES ON FRIENDLY VISIT

LD101012Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 10 Apr 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, minister of defense and aviation of Saudi Arabia, heading a delegation, arrived in Teheran this afternoon for a friendly visit at the official invitation of War Minister General Azimi. He was welcomed by the war minister and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the Imperial Court.

Talks With Amuzegar

LD111704Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar today met and had talks with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation.

The Saudi minister of defense and aviation, who has come to our country on a friendly visit, will inspect various sections of the Imperial Army.

Received by Shah

JN111227Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Teheran, 11 April--His Majesty Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi today received His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of defense and aviation, who conveyed to the shah the greetings of his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister.

During this audience, which was attended by Iranian War Minister Gen Reza Azimi and Saudi Ambassador in Teheran Shaykh Ibrahim Bakr, the two sides reviewed the relations between their countries and various aspects of cooperation in all fields and the means to strengthen this cooperation.

KHALATBARI RETURNS FROM VISIT TO AUSTRIA

LD082230Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister Khalatbari concluded his 4-day visit to Austria and returned to Iran this evening. During his stay in Austria he was received by the Austrian president and held talks with Austrian officials on the expansion of Iran-Austrian relations. "Following these talks, an air transport agreement was signed between Iran and Austria in Vienna. On his arrival at Mehrabad Airport this evening, Khalatbari told our correspondent that relations between Iran and Austria are very close and cordial and the two countries' trade and economic relations have been very good, especially in recent years."

BRIEFS

NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR--PANA (PARS News Agency)--8 April 78--The Iranian Government today approved the appointment of Vishnu Kalyandas Ahuja as the new Indian ambassador to the Imperial Court. The new ambassador formerly served as Indian consul general in New York and ambassador to Romania. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 0931 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD]

INDIA

VAJPAYEE, AGHA SHAHI DISCUSS INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS

Vajpayee, Agha Shahi Speeches

BK111029Y Delhi ISI in English 0837 GMT 11 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpt] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee held a dinner in honour of Agha Shahi, adviser on foreign affairs, the Government of Pakistan, in New Delhi on April 10. Proposing the toast, Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency and friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome once again Your Excellency and members of your delegation in our midst this evening, April 10. Of my recent visit to your great country, you were good enough to say that it had been useful in improving the atmosphere for furthering relations between our countries. We are sure that your visit here will be yet another step to consolidate and continue the normalisation of our relations. We hope that the opportunity you have of meeting our leaders and our people would enable you to convey to the people and leaders of Pakistan the warmth of our sentiments and our readiness for happier ties.

It is indeed a happy augury that both our countries are endeavouring to explore the avenues through which we can develop greater confidence and trust in one another. The common desire to pursue this worthy objective has found expression in many happy gestures that both have made and which I trust will characterise our bilateral relations. Even during the few weeks since we met last we have seen our hockey team learn some well-needed lessons from your skillful players, on whose triumphant success in the World Cup I take this opportunity to congratulate you. We had the pleasure of receiving your distinguished colleague adviser on food and agriculture and discuss the possibilities for each of us to benefit from the experience and achievements of the other in this vital field of national development. Our people had the privilege of enjoying the artistry of some of your most famous singers when Roshanara Begum and Malika Pukhraj graced the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the All-India Radio. Some of your cricketers have been delighting the Delhi audience, and we are happy to learn that the way is now open for the resumption of cricket tests between our two countries. You had kindly invited the journalists who accompanied me to Pakistan to stay on and see your country, and I hope you will agree that they gave a very friendly and objective account of their experiences. We are happy that your journalists have come here in their turn. We welcome them and hope that they too will find their visit rewarding.

These steps, though small, illustrate the fact that a fresh wind of understanding has begun to blow over this subcontinent. We hope that this wind will clear away the mist of misunderstandings created by the past and bring into being a wholesome climate of trust and cooperation between the countries to whom history and geography have bequeathed an interlinked destiny.

In this new climate we have already moved some way to rediscover the logic of economic cooperation in a spirit which is of advantage to both countries. We shall be resuming official discussions on the Salal Hydroelectric Project where they were concluded in Islamabad, and we hope to finalise an agreement. Our commercial relations have improved, and we are glad to find that trade is moving in both directions. We hope when the review of our trade takes place in Islamabad in the first week of May both countries will build upon the existing basis so that to mutual advantage commerce between our two countries can reach a higher level.

During my visit to Pakistan I had stated that at the present state of our bilateral relations it was important that we do not allow a narrow view of obstacles to mar our vision. Nor can either of us afford to follow a policy of scoring points over the other.

We in India have maintained our policy of strict noninterference in Pakistan's internal affairs. I was happy to find that this has been appreciated by your leaders and people. Given the political and social setup in this country and the fact that what happens in your country cannot but affect our public opinion I am sure you also appreciate that it is not always an easy task. As a government, however, we will continue our commitment both to noninterference and to the objective of seeking normal, harmonious and better relations with Pakistan on the basis of equality.

As your chief executive General Ziaul Haq said to me, one of the key problems affecting the relations between us is the legacy of mistrust, misunderstanding, misconceptions about each other's affairs and intentions left to us by our troubled past. It is necessary for both our governments to constantly seek in small ways, if necessary, until it is possible in bigger ways to enable our peoples to know and understand each other better and to act for our respective and common good. It is only by ridding ourselves of this negative legacy that we can solve our problems in the spirit of statesmanship and develop a more fruitful future.

We earnestly hope that the process of dialogue which we both have initiated would continue. I am not so naive as to believe that all our problems can be resolved to our mutual satisfaction in the course of such visits. But the trend we have set in augers well for our subcontinent.

In conclusion, I would like to request you all to join me in drinking a toast to the health of His Excellency Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, president of Pakistan; His Excellency General Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator and head of the Government of Pakistan; to my distinguished friend His Excellency Agha Shahi; and to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Pakistan as well as to the strengthening of good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.

SAMACHAR adds: Agha Shahi referred to the relatively tension free atmosphere between the two countries during last few months despite the legacy of distrust and suspicion as a result of the statesmanship displayed by both countries and said: "Let us endeavor to ensure that this relationship so painstakingly achieved is not undermined but becomes a new starting point for the progressive development of good neighbourly relations which are essential to peace and stability in the region."

Agha Shahi also referred in this connection to the contribution made to the improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations by Vajpayee's recent visit to Pakistan and the constructive approach adopted by him in the talks with them.

He said as General Ziaul Haq had said in his letter to Prime Minister Morarji Desai they believed that given sincerity and goodwill on both sides the two countries could solve all the problems and open a new chapter of friendship based on cooperation and good neighbourliness.

During their current visit he hoped an agreement would be reached to resolve the differences between the two countries on the construction of the Salal Dam by India. The Salal agreement, he said, could become a welcome example to finding a solution to other problems between the two countries.

"We look forward, Your Excellency, in this atmosphere of conciliation to a settlement also of the Jammu-Kashmir dispute as called for in the Simla Agreement. The settlement of this dispute will set the seal on the process of normalization and enable our two countries to devote their energies wholeheartedly to the eradication of the problem of poverty and underdevelopment which beset our peoples," he added.

Vajpayee, Agha Shahi Talks

BK111632Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 78 BK

[Text] At their two formal rounds of talks in New Delhi, the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and the Pakistan adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, today had a wide-ranging exchange of views on bilateral matters and some international issues.

Simultaneously, the official delegations of the two countries, headed by their foreign secretaries, Mr Jagat Mehta and Mr Shahnawaz, had prolongei discussions on the Salal project, which India proposes to build on the Chenab. Mr Agha Shahi also had an hour's meeting with Prime Minister Morarji Desai. He said later that they had discussed important bilateral matters. The Salal question was also discussed.

Both sides are understood to have felt gratified at the improvement in the climate of relations which has helped ease the legacy of suspicion. At this morning's talks, Mr Agha Shahi and Mr Vajpayee exchanged views on bilateral relations including the Salal Dam. They later withdrew and their official teams got down to brass tacks on the Salal project.

Both sides have expressed the hope that an agreement on the subject will be concluded at the earliest. These talks are to be resumed tomorrow.

At the afternoon session, which was devoted to a comprehensive review of India-Pakistan relations, Mr Vajpayee told Mr Agha Shahi about India's decision to release all Pakistani detainees who have served their sentence following the government's announcement to do away with the preventive detention law. They will be repatriated by the end of this month. He expressed the hope that Indian detainees in Pakistan would also be returned.

Mr Agha Shahi said he would do his best to expedite the process. The question of relaxing and further simplifying travel between the two countries was also discussed. Mr Agha Shahi said he was aware of the human factor and the government's intention also is to gradually relax these regulations and facilitate travel as far as feasible.

The ministerial review also covered trade, exchange in the field of culture, sports and science. A trade delegation is to go to Islamabad in the first week of next month.

Mr Agha Shahi referred to Mr Vajpayee's visit to Pakistan in February and said it had served a most constructive purpose. He is understood to have said that Mr Vajpayee's statesmanship has contributed to further improvement of the atmosphere and strengthening of relations between the two countries. He expressed gratification at the overall policies of the Janata government. Pakistan greatly appreciates India's policy of strict noninterference which has created a deep impression on the people of Pakistan. It had done far more in generating trust and confidence than any elaborate statement of policies, he said.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that the significant feature of today's talks was a very comprehensive exchange of views on the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament including coordinating of action. The two sides were substantially in agreement on various matters pertaining to disarmament.

Mr Agha Shahi also called on the president, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy and the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Hedge.

AFGAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI 11 APRIL

BK121026Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Afgan foreign minister, Mr Wahid Abdollah, arrived in New Delhi last night on a 4-day official visit to this country. He was received at the airport among others by the external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

During his stay in the capital, Mr Abdollah will have talks with Mr Vajpayee on the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of nonalined countries at Kabul next month. He is also scheduled to meet the prime minister.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the Afgan foreign minister described relations between India and Afghanistan as very close. Welcoming the Afgan minister, Mr Vajpayee said his visit to India is significant at this time when attempts are being made to drive a wedge between the nonalined countries.

INDO-SOVIET PLANNING GROUP TALKS CONCLUDE 10 APRIL

BK111042Y Delhi ISI in English 0910 GMT 11 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Indo-Soviet Planning Group concluded in New Delhi on April 10. The discussions, which were spread over 2 full days, covered three themes--multiple objective planning, energy planning and transport planning.

The Planning Group discussed methodological issues relating to different areas of economic planning. Despite the differences in the socioeconomic structures of the two countries, a number of similarities were identified which arose on account of size, diversity and federal structure of the two countries. Both sides felt that the discussions enhanced the understanding of each others' economies and provided a useful forum for the exchange of ideas on methodology.

During the discussions, planning priorities in India and the Soviet Union were described by the two sides. The Indian side explained the objectives of employment generation, poverty removal and provision of basic needs which underlay the 1978-83 5-year plan. It was emphasized that economic growth progress towards self-reliance and reduction in disparities in income and wealth also remained an important objective. The Soviet side indicated that one of the important objectives of planning in the Soviet Union was the intensification of production and the increase of scientific and technical progress. They also described the objective of improving the quality of production and measures to achieve this. The Soviet side indicated that one of the aims of planning in the Soviet Union was the development of the eastern part of the union. Both sides presented types of models used for plan formulation and discussed various issues relating to transport and energy planning.

The Soviet delegation also visited Jaipur and held discussions with the minister of planning of the Government of Rajasthan and other officials of the Rajasthan Government. They visited a village near Jaipur to see a dairy development and cattle improvement scheme.

The Indian delegation at these discussions was headed by Professor Raj Krishna, member of the Planning Commission, and the Soviet delegation was headed by Professor A.P. Bachurin, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee of the USSR.

It may be recalled that Indo-Soviet study group was set up in 1973 within the framework of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. The previous three meetings of this group were held in 1974 in Moscow, 1975 in New Delhi and 1976 in Moscow. The group will meet again next year in Moscow.

INDIA TO BRING SUIT AGAINST U.S. DRUG COMPANIES

BK111050Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Government of India is taking necessary action to file a damage brief in the U.S. courts against certain American drug companies for overcharging India [for] drugs imported between 1953-54 and 1963-64.

This information was given by the petroleum minister, Mr H. N. Bahuguna, at question time in the lower house of Parliament today. He said that this decision has been taken after the U.S. Courts of Appeal had declared that a foreign nation can be considered a person for suing American companies under the (Katen) act and antitrust laws.

Mr Bahuguna, however, declined to give out the extent of damage to be claimed by India, saying this is being still quantified for the purposes of the damage brief. Once a suit is filed the house will be informed.

PAKISTAN

HAQ COMMENTS ON SIND, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FORMATION

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[Excerpts] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administer, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has stressed the need for creating a true spirit of self-help to overcome the problems of the society. Addressing a news conference in Hyderabad this afternoon at the conclusion of his 4-day visit to the interior of Sind, he said they should establish a system of self-improvement, selfless service, sense of duty and cooperation between the administration and the people at all levels.

The chief martial law administrator said he found the law and order situation in Sind quite satisfactory. There was, however, some need of improvement in the administration at the lower level to which they were already giving their attention. He pointed out that there had always been some people in the society who created problems, but they were of no consequence. He made it clear that the government was not after anybody. It would only take notice of those who were not behaving properly. He declared that the overwhelming majority of the people have the interests of Pakistan nearest to their hearts. They love their country and wanted to strengthen its ideological base. He said Sind is the soul of Pakistan. If the soul is strong, the body will also be strong. Sind had played a notable role in the propagation of Islam in this part of the world and is still playing that role.

Replying to a question about the formation of a national government, the chief martial law administrator said it is still in the probing stage. The situation is encouraging. He may be able to say something on the issue after he had talked with the political leaders. However, he stressed that he wants to see a truly national government chosen by the people to come into power. He said they want to finish their job and hand over the reins of the government to the people's representatives.

The chief martial law administrator said in his speech at Sukkur that he had pointed out that the foundation must be strengthened before erecting a political edifice and had mooted the idea of democracy starting from the grass root level. However, he said, whatever he would do would be in the best national interest. He said he is serving the nation to the best of his ability and he is answerable to the Almighty Allah.

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